

# New commander takes '2 Panther' helm

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Christina Carde  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — A change of command ceremony took place Sunday for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., where VIPs and battalion soldiers said goodbye to their commander Lt. Col. Michael P. Lerario and welcomed their new commander Lt. Col. Bruce D. Parker.

Of the VIPs who attended the ceremony were Brigadier Gen. Byron Bagby, director, Combined Joint Task Force-180 and Col. Vance Sales Task Force Tiger commander who shared his thoughts on the Panthers and listened to the outgoing and incoming commanders talk about old times and plans for the future.

"You only get one chance for a first impression, but with the Panthers I've had



*Lt. Col. Michael P. Lerario, outgoing commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., passes the colors to Col. Vance Sales, Task Force Tiger commander, during his change of command ceremony Sunday.*

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# Army signs multi-million-dollar contract with Microsoft

By Angela Yeoh  
Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** — The Army has signed a six-year contract worth more than \$470 million with Microsoft, to consolidate software purchases and licenses in an effort to improve security and access to information Army-wide.

The Enterprise Software Consolidation contract covers 494,000 users as well as software for the Army enterprise network, and is expected to save the Army \$15 million over the next six years, officials said.

As part of the Department of Defense Enterprise Software Initiative, ESI, the contract comes under the Army Knowledge Management strategy to better support Army operations through access to information, according to Col. Mark Barnette, chief of the Army's Information Infrastructure Division, G6.

"The ESI aims to provide a net-centric environment where management and movement of information is critical to the

needs of the war fighter," he said.

At present, each Army post, camp and station buys software on different contracts. This requires more labor and creates more costs, including extra paperwork and systems administration work, said Peggy Henderson, acting deputy director of Enterprise Systems Technology Activity.

She added that different elements of the Army may then be on different baselines - that is, have different operating systems and applications - which aren't necessarily compatible.

In addition, many older systems to which Microsoft will no longer provide technical support are more vulnerable to computer viruses and hackers. Henderson noted that buying this mass amount of software will make it much easier for people to get to more current versions.

Barnette outlined three strategic goals for the Army's AKM transformation: to defend the information network, to support

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## Twins surgery at 'critical' phase

CNN — A risky operation to separate two adult Iranian sisters joined at the head has reached a critical phase, with doctors performing the unprecedented surgery trying to split and reroute a large vein which serves the sisters' brain.

The operation on 29-year old Ladan and Laleh Bijani — involving an international team of neurosurgeons, dozens of doctors as well as support staff — began on Sunday and is expected to last two to four days, a spokesman at Singapore's Raffles Hospital said.

Early Monday, surgeons began the crucial blood vessel work. Instead of each of the sisters' separate brains having a major vein, they share just one. Apart from being joined at the head, the sisters have distinct bodies.



*A pair of shoes lies at the scene of Saturday's explosion in Ramadi.*

## U.S. soldier killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — A gunman shot and killed a soldier who was guarding Baghdad University in the city's center Sunday, military officials said.

The soldier from the 352<sup>nd</sup> Civil Affairs Command had strayed from a larger group and was talking with a local resident when someone walked up from behind and shot him in the back of the head with a handgun, a witness told CNN. The shooting took place around 12:30 p.m. (4:30 a.m. EDT), a military

spokeswoman said.

According to U.S. Central Command, the soldier died at a hospital.

## Liberia's Taylor accepts asylum offer

MONROVIA, Liberia — Embattled President Charles Taylor of war-torn Liberia said Sunday that he has accepted an offer of asylum from Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, but he did not specify a timetable.

U.S. President George W. Bush, who has said Taylor's immediate departure is necessary for peace, is scheduled to leave Monday night on a five-nation African tour that includes stops in nearby Senegal and Nigeria. Bush is considering sending U.S. troops to Liberia to assist peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts, officials said.

Speaking Sunday after their meeting in Monrovia, Taylor said Obasanjo "has extended an invitation. We have accepted the invitation. ...

"I think it is proper that we proceed gingerly and with haste. Because I did understand President Bush that things must be done quickly."

## Woman allegedly throws infant sons into river

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A woman allegedly threw her twin infant sons into the Mississippi River, then jumped in herself, screaming incoherently as she fell, police said.

Several people waiting at the river's edge Friday for July Fourth fireworks to start leapt in after them. A man rescued one of the 11-month-old boys, then pulled the mother to safety with the help of others.

By then, the second boy had disappeared, said Police Cmdr. Brian Coyle.

The body of a baby was found Sunday night, and Dakota County Sheriff's dispatcher Jan Kaeder said officials were "all but technically sure it's the child." He said a coroner would make the final determination.

## Car hits bicyclists head-on

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — A motorist swerved over the center lane in a no-passing zone Sunday and plowed into a group of oncoming bicyclists, injuring 14 of them, of-

ficials said.

Joseph Pastore, 60, said he was trying to pass a slow-moving car when he struck the group on a two-lane residential road, said police spokesman George Kajtsa.

The 25 to 30 bicyclists were members of two clubs who were on a weekly outing.

## Bald eagle dies after attack at National Zoo

WASHINGTON — Officials at the National Zoo suspect that a large cat got into a bald eagle's enclosure and killed the bird, perhaps already weakened by fierce storms and unable to fly.

It is the latest in a series of animal deaths at the zoo.

The male eagle died Friday morning, the same day that the zoo celebrated a new exhibit designed especially for bald eagles hurt in the wild.

## T3 terminates box office rivals

LOS ANGELES — Arnold Schwarzenegger returned to the No. 1 slot at the North American box office Sunday as his long-awaited sci-fi thriller "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" led the field during the July 4 holiday weekend.

The third movie in the Terminator franchise sold \$44.1 million worth of tickets for the Friday-to-Sunday period, and a total of \$72.5 million since opening July 2.

The movie sets a new record for Schwarzenegger, 55, who has not had a hit in years.

## Firefighters take to Tuscon hills

TUCSON — A wind-whipped wildfire that destroyed more than 300 mountaintop homes last month drove downhill Sunday toward an exclusive enclave on the city's northern fringe. Officials urged residents of scores of homes and guests at a resort hotel to evacuate.

The area, Ventana Canyon, is a high desert enclave that includes upscale homes and the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort. There are 200 to 300 homes in the area, said George Heaney, a bureau chief with the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

# B-ball contest scores change of pace

Story and photo by

Pfc. Terri Rorke

11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM,** Afghanistan — Servicemembers competed in the first Bagram three-point shootout contest Sunday morning.

One of Bagram's basketball fanatics, Sgt. Eric "Tybo" Lawton, 159<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, Hunter Army Air Field, Ga., decided to coordinate the contest and also compete in it. After helping out with the Memorial Day basketball tournament, Lawton talked to Morale, Welfare and Recreation about setting up his own game.

When MWR helped him out with cold drinks and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service donated prizes, Lawton was set for the competition that he said gives servicemembers a change of pace.

"It gives people something different to do besides using the phones and going to the (Post Exchange). It gets monotonous. (The contest) keeps their minds off missing their families."

About 20 soldiers each took turns shooting three-pointers, aiming for as many points as possible at five different racks. They had



*1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ken Outlaw, C Company, 27<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Combat), Fort Bragg, N.C. aims for the hoop during the basketball shootout contest here Sunday.*

one minute for each turn.

Only the top 10 percent advanced to the second round.

Once they reached the third and final round, the servicemembers had 30-second shoot-offs. Not to his surprise, Lawton won first place in the game.

To spread the competition, Lawton is currently trying to set up another shootout later this month. He said he would like to

make this a bi-monthly event.

The top three finishers received prizes.

Lawton received the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize of a t-shirt, a coffee mug and two phone-cards. Spc. Antoine Robinson from the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-A won the 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize of a t-shirt, a coffee mug, a phone card and a night light. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner won a t-shirt, a coffee mug and a phone card.

## PANTHERS, from Page 1

four," said Sales. "Each time it was the same. A battalion of soldiers fit to fight who bring a new meaning to the red beret. As for the commanders, I wish them the best of luck as they continue to go all the way."

Of the commanders, Lerario was the first to speak on his memoirs as battalion commander and say farewell to his troops.

"Over the past two years I have had the pleasure of commanding '2 Panthers,' perhaps the greatest honor that could ever befall a lieutenant colonel," said Lerario. "Today is quite possibly the saddest day I have had in those two years, because I am leaving a battalion of exceptional soldiers and (noncommissioned officers)."

Even though Lerario's heart was heavy in leaving the Panthers, he said he knows they will continue the OEF mission in the good hands of Lt. Col. Parker.

"Thanks to the soldiers of Task Force '2 Panther' and their efforts to ensure force protection, all the personnel on Bagram can sleep peacefully at night," said Lerario. "Even though I haven't spent a lot of time with him, I know the battalion is in good hands with Lt. Col. Parker, who will make sure they carry on that mission."

During Lerario's time in service he has been awarded the Bronze Star and Defense Meritorious Service Medals, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters and Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster. His citations and badges include a Joint Meritorious Unit and Meritorious Unit Citation and Ranger, Master Parachutist, Air Assault, Combat Infantryman and Expert Infantryman's badges.

At the end of his speech, Lerario turned the microphone and the battalion over to Parker, whose words were few, but message was strong.

"Although '2 Panther' is changing commanders it is by no means changing its mission," said Parker. "We will continue to ensure force protection and maintain the presence of the (Quick Reaction Force) while still having the best trained soldiers and rifle squads in the division. Airborne all the way!"

Parker is an ROTC graduate of Seattle University and was commissioned an Infantry Officer in 1985. His key assignments include company commander in the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Light, battalion executive officer and brigade executive officer in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

"I feel fantastic about taking command over this battalion," said Parker. "To be in command of a combat airborne battalion — it doesn't get any better than this."



## CONTRACT, from Page 1

the Objective Force, the Army's future, and to reduce the cost of operations.

Henderson said the new contract is particularly relevant to the last of these goals.

"We're trying to be more like a corporation, be more business-oriented," she said.

"For example with buying paper, instead of just buying it for your own office, you're buying for the whole organization because it's substantially cheaper. Enterprise is about treating the army as one integrated organization," Henderson said.

Integration, she said, also enables more efficient information access.

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"We're trying to be more like a corporation, be more business-oriented,"

- Peggy Henderson, acting deputy director of Enterprise Systems Technology Activity

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"If you have the most current information, you're going to do a better job of protecting yourself, winning the battle," said Henderson.

"Running the Army as an enterprise means that people down on the ground can have the most current information and be in a better position to make immediate decisions in their area rather than waiting for someone on high to get the information and assimilate it," she added.

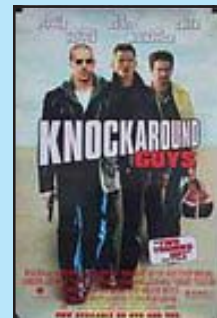
The aim is to have one Army network, one Army portal, a single sign-on capability, a universal directory service, and the ability for plug-in play, where soldiers can go anywhere, anytime and plug in to the network for their work and gain universal access to information across the Army, according to Barnette.

The Army will buy the software from Microsoft reseller Softmart Government Services, Inc., based in Downingtown, Pa.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building:  
"Knockaround Guys." The wannabe sons of mobsters go to a remote town in the Midwest, and get themselves into more trouble than anyone could anticipate.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Stealing Harvard."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 90F L: 64F	Haze H: 91F L: 64F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dust H: 106F L: 82F	Dust H: 108F L: 77F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 86F L: 59F	Haze H: 88F L: 59F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Sunny H: 101F L: 62F	Sunny H: 102F L: 61F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Stanford, Robbins, Lunke will face off in 18-hole playoff

**NORTH PLAINS, Ore.** — Hilary Lunke and Angela Stanford watched from the tee. Kelly Robbins was in the scoring trailer, her eyes glued to the television.

No matter the viewpoint, it was an intimidating sight — Annika Sorenstam in the middle of the fairway on the par-5 18<sup>th</sup>, poised to make birdie and win the U.S. Women's Open.

"I was expecting her to have a decent shot at birdie," Lunke said. "You've always got to anticipate that. You're playing against the best player in the world, she's going to make birdie. And you have to match her."

What followed was a stunning conclusion Sunday that set up a three-way playoff for the first time in 16 years at the U.S. Women's Open.

The real shocker: Sorenstam won't be there.

Sorenstam hit into the trees, into a bunker and fell apart with a bogey on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, leaving Lunke, Stanford and Robbins to play for the biggest prize in women's golf.



*Angela Stanford reacts after making a 20-foot birdie putt on 18 to make the playoff.*

## Woods goes wire-to-wire, wins by five strokes; Beem second

**LEMONT, Ill.** — Even Jack Nicklaus, Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer couldn't match this.

Tiger Woods cruised to victory Sunday in the 100<sup>th</sup> Western Open, his 38<sup>th</sup> career victory on the PGA Tour and fourth of the season. It marks his fifth straight year with at least four victories, a feat no one else has managed.

And this is a guy who some say is in a slump?

Hogan, Palmer, Tom Watson and Lloyd Mangrum had four straight years with four or more victories.

The victory also made Woods the fifth three-time winner at the Western, the oldest stop on the PGA Tour. Hogan, Nicklaus and Palmer each won the Western twice.

The gaudy numbers don't stop there. Woods shot a 69 Sunday, giving him 21-under 267 for the tournament. That matches the tournament record set in 2001 by Scott Hoch.

Woods missed an 11-footer on the 18th that would have given him the record on his own. The crowd cheered when he putted out, but he still looked a little subdued.

Woods led the entire tournament, the first wire-to-wire winner at the Western since Nick Price in 1993. It's the fifth wire-to-wire victory in Woods' career.

## It's as easy as it looks for Federer

**WIMBLEDON, England** — The past seven Grand Slam singles titles have gone to seven different men.

Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras are 30-something and going, going, gone. Thomas Johansson and Albert Costa probably were one-hit wonders. Lleyton Hewitt and Juan Carlos Ferrero are young and talented enough, but their games might not be big enough or diverse enough to consistently master their universe.



*Roger Federer had 50 winners and 9 unforced errors.*

On Sunday, Roger Federer, a 21-year-old from Basel, Switzerland, won The Championships with consummate, almost deceptive ease. He dissected Australian Mark Philippoussis 7-6 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (3).

This one, it must be said, feels different.

It was the first Grand Slam title for Federer, but it almost certainly will not be the last. Was it a coincidence that, when he fell to his knees and leaned back in ecstasy after Philippoussis' backhand service return found the net, he looked like Bjorn Borg?

Federer's serve was not broken. In fact, he did not face a break point. Only once did Philippoussis even manage to get three points on Federer's serve — imagine, just one deuce in three sets. He lost only a single set in seven matches, to Mardy Fish in the third round. Borg was the last man to go a perfect 21-for-21, in 1976. It was the first of five consecutive Wimbledon titles for the taciturn Swede. What's ahead for Federer?

"He'll win many more Wimbledons," said Boris Becker, a three-time champion and seven-time finalist here. "We have seen the future. The future has come today."

## Pride homers in Yankee debut

**NEW YORK** — When Bill Mueller's homer sailed over the left-field fence in the first inning, the New York Yankees seemed headed for another long day against Boston's relentless offense.

Instead, Andy Pettitte shut down baseball's top-hitting team

## **SPORTS**, from Page 5

and gave the Yankees just the lift they needed.

Pettitte struck out 10 in eight innings and Curtis Pride homered in his Yankees debut, leading New York to a 7-1 victory over the Red Sox on Sunday.

"He's pitched some big games for us," manager Joe Torre said. "I don't know if he's pitched any bigger regular-season games than this one because of the way we were beat up the last two days."

Alfonso Soriano went 3-for-5 with a two-run triple to help the Yankees snap a three-game losing streak and move three games ahead of second-place Boston in the AL East.

"This wasn't a must-win game, but it was big," Pettitte said. "I knew we had to have it in a big way."

### **Valentin, Crede power Chicago to victory**

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** — The dye was barely dry in Lou Piniella's hair before Tampa Bay's winning streak ended.

The last-place Devil Rays reverted to their losing ways Sunday, falling 11-3 to the Chicago White Sox just hours after Piniella kept a promise to change his hair if his young team won three in a row at any point this season.

"We just got whoomped up," Piniella said.

"We talked about these things happening from time to time. ... I'm talking about where we get roughed up. Nobody wants to see it, but it's a matter of life as we're constituted. It happens to other teams, too."

### **Reds acquire Jimenez from White Sox**

**CINCINNATI** — The Cincinnati Reds tried to strengthen their bench Sunday by acquiring infielder D'Angelo Jimenez from the Chicago White Sox for a minor league pitcher.

Jimenez, 25, was designated for assignment on Wednesday, after the White Sox overhauled their roster by acquiring outfielder Carl Everett and second baseman Roberto Alomar.

The Reds were looking for someone to replace outfielder Wily Mo Pena, who went on the disabled list Saturday with a stained hamstring. Pena was a seldom-used player off the bench, going 3-for-35 with 15 strikeouts.

Jimenez will be a backup who can play third base, second and shortstop.

"We have some guys on the bench that strike out a lot, and this gives us a choice of a guy who can put the ball in play," general manager Jim Bowden said.

### **Crash mars first stage of Tour de France**

**MEAUX, France** — Four-time champion Lance Armstrong was thrown from his bike but not seriously hurt in a crash involving about 35 riders sprinting for the finish line in the first full stage of the Tour de France on Sunday.

Alessandro Petacchi of Italy, just ahead of the pack that crashed, won the stage and immediately blamed Tour organizers for the pileup, saying the corner where the accident took place, a

few hundred yards from the finish, was dangerous.

"We're made to wear a helmet, but then they give us a dangerous corner so close to the finish. That's something that should not be on the route in such an important race as the Tour de France," he said.

A Spanish rider, Jose Enrique Gutierrez, was first to go down, slipping in the turn. Other riders, including Armstrong, who is vying for a record-tying fifth consecutive title, piled into him.

Many other cyclists were blocked behind the mass of fallen riders and bikes.

### **Strategy fuels Herta's first IRL win**

**KANSAS CITY, Kan.** — For Bryan Herta, miles per gallon was just as important as miles per hour.

As one leader, then another, pitted late in the Kansas Indy 300 on Sunday, Herta drafted behind lapped Robbie Buhl and hoped he had enough fuel left in his tank.

He did — barely. Herta took the lead with five laps to go and held on for his first Indy Racing League victory.

"We were looking for someone to hook up with to save fuel," Herta said. "I need to send (Buhl) a nice bottle of champagne."

Herta's victory at Kansas Speedway denied Scott Dixon the circuit's first three-race winning streak since 1998, when Kenny Brack won at Charlotte, Pikes Peak and Atlanta.

Dixon, who started from the pole, finished sixth and lost ground to points leader Tony Kanaan.

It was the first win on an oval for Herta, a former CART driver. He signed on with Andretti Green Racing late last month after Dario Franchitti, who broke his back in a motorcycle accident in April, had season-ending surgery.

**"I'd like to see the dessert tray, if you don't mind."**



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By Kevin Kilgore

## **Laugh Support**